



CALPEEK

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CAMPAIGN 2004: NEW POLL SHOWS BOXER WITH HEFTY LEAD OVER 4 REPUBLICAN CHALLENGERS.

Editor's note: an early political poll suggests at this point that U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer(D-CA) is in fairly good shape for her reelection in November of 2004. Here's our update and analysis...

...The poll shows Boxer leading four potential GOP rivals in 2004: Bill Simon Jr. and U.S. Reps. Mary Bono, Doug Ose and Darrell Issa. The poll was commissioned by the CA Correctional Peace Offices Assn. (CCPOA) and was conducted by pollster Steve Kinney of Public Opinion Research. Sample size 800 likely voters, Jan. 20-23...

Boxer (50%) vs. Simon (37%)

Boxer (49%) vs. Bono (37%)

Boxer (53%) vs. Ose (34%)

Boxer (53%) vs. Issa (32%)

...While it's still very early, these numbers are pretty good news for an incumbent who is the GOP's *#1 target* nationwide. With the exception of Bono, Boxer's numbers are 50 percent or better against Simon, Ose and Issa. For whatever reason, U.S. Rep. George Radanovich(R-Fresno) was not included in the survey, yet he's seriously testing the waters...

...In terms of money, as noted previously, Boxer had nearly \$1.4 million cash on hand. During the past six months she raised \$2,376,130 and spent \$1.1 million...

...As of 12/31/02, on the GOP side, Bono had \$81,748 cash on hand. Issa had \$243,990 coh, with debts of \$1.8 million. Ose had \$499,520 coh, with debts of \$1.4 million. Radanovich had \$235,900 coh, with debts of \$8,182. FYI: Issa ran for the U.S. Senate in 1998, but never made it past the primary. In that race, he still carries debts of \$9.4 million...

...As for that L.A. Times story saying Issa was looking at running as a candidate against Gov. Gray Davis(D) in a possible recall, Calpeek sources confirm that Issa is very serious about being the GOP recall candidate and the GOP congressman believes it will qualify. Given Issa's deep

pockets, it is very possible he could self fund against Davis in a recall. Issa, Ose and Radanovich all plan to stage events at the Feb. 21-23 CRP convention in Sacramento. It will be interesting to see exactly what Issa does at this convention: push for the U.S. Senate or push his possible recall candidacy against Davis. Stay tuned...

RECALL MADNESS: AT LEAST TWO DIFFERENT GOP GROUPS HAVE PLANS TO RECALL GOV. GRAY DAVIS

Editor's note: As noted in various news articles about this proposed recall against Gov. Gray Davis(D), every Calif. governor since Pat Brown has faced at least one recall – in the case of Davis, this will be his second one. The first one went nowhere. Here's our analysis & commentary...

...Bet your first born that at the CA Republican Party's Feb. 21-23 convention in Sacramento, most every speech will have something in it about this proposed recall. To the 1,422 delegates this recall is *political red meat*. Sources tell Calpeek that at least one of the recall groups will stage a big rally at the CRP convention. Only problem is that petitions aren't even on the street yet and there's the big question of where's the money? Recalls, like any type of political campaign, cost a ton of money. Petition managers must be hired, along with direct mail consultants and other strategists...

...Here's what we know. There are two recall campaigns at present: one group is led by consultant Sal Russo (Bill Simon's lead campaign consultant) and former hardline conservative Assemblyman Howard Kaloogian of north San Diego Co.; the other group is led by Ted Costa of People's Advocate + consultant Wayne Johnson/Tim Clark + soon to be ex CRP Chair Shawn Steel. This group is further along in the recall process than Russo's group and has now hired Arno Political Consultants of Sacto as petition mgrs. The hope is that Russo's group, if not willing to actually merge, will at least be willing to use the same petitions so that there won't be two truly separate campaigns. Sources think Russo is waiting and watching to see how the Costa/Steel effort goes at the CRP convention. Davis did respond to charges and most think SOS Kevin Shelley will give a

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final OK to the recall by the end of February or at least by the first part of March at the latest...

...As for Davis, sources close to the Demo governor say he can't afford to take these GOP recall efforts lightly – even though he says it's nothing but *sour grapes*. That may be true, but then it won't require as many signatures to qualify because of the low voter turnout in 2002 – 1.3 to 1.4 million signatures to insure qualification. Cost: about \$2 million. Haven't seen any heavy, big money yet, but that could change. U.S. Rep. Darrell Issa (R-San Diego) is said to be giving serious consideration to running in the recall and may dump in some big bucks. He's got *deep pockets*...

...Davis now has to begin thinking about raising a warchest of his own – something he had hoped would not be necessary in 2003. His campaign committee is down to a skeleton staff and he'll need to beef up his campaign/fundraising quickly to be prepared, especially if this recall qualifies...

...But have recall sponsors really thought this thing out? For example, if there's a *special recall election* called by Lt. Gov. Cruz Bustamante (D) for the fall, does the GOP realize that all those initiatives slated for the March 2004 ballot will be on this same ballot? That includes Ward Connerly's controversial *racial privacy initiative* – a measure sure to bring out big blocs of Demo voters. And has the GOP polled to see if a recall could actually work? NOT yet, but the Demos have. Sources say the polling shows a recall would lose by a *substantial margin*, despite Davis' unpopularity...

...Finally, are GOPers all on the same recall page? NO!!! Some GOPers are totally focused on defeating U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer (D) and think this recall is an unnecessary diversion. Other Republicans are much more concerned about President George W. Bush's reelection in 2004. And GOP Assembly Leader Dave Cox is opposed to the recall and won't support it. So will this recall against Davis qualify? Only if there's *money*. Stay tuned...

CALPEEK'S CALENDAR OF POLITICAL EVENTS

Feb. 21-24	Nat'l Assn. of Secretaries of State, winter meeting, Wash. DC
Feb. 25	CA Journalism Awards dinner, 6:45 p.m., Radisson Hotel, Sacramento.
Mar. 4	L.A. muni election + 62 other Calif. cities.
Mar. 14	17 th Annual Hall of Fame Awards luncheon Nat'l Assn. of Women Business Owners at Beverly Hilton Hotel, Beverly Hills.
Mar. 14-16	CA Democratic Party state convention, Sacramento.

CAMPAIGN 2003: UPDATE ON L.A. MUNICIPAL RACES

Editor's note: Here's a brief update & analysis on three key L.A. City Council races...

◆ **14th District** – It wasn't a shock to see the L.A. Times endorse former Assemblyman Antonio Villaraigosa over incumbent Councilman Nick Pacheco. But what was surprising was the way the daily paper both bashed and then praised Pacheco. Villaraigosa picked up the endorsements of L.A. Controller Laura Chick and L.A. Co. Sheriff Lee Baca, who was at first a Pacheco supporter. Pacheco's daily campaign is now being run by Pedro Carrillo, former assembly candidate and ex deputy COS to U.S. Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard. The tragic death of Pacheco's COS Lloyd Monserratt a month ago has not been the *downer* as some expected and in fact there's new energy. In the Boyle Heights area of the 14th, Pacheco has had 150 volunteers walking each weekend. Villaraigosa's big labor GOTV is expected very soon. Best guess by insiders is that this race is still a toss up...

◆ **12th District** – The L.A. Times endorsed Councilman Hal Bernson's COS Greig Smith, but it's the L.A. Daily News which really has more clout in this district. Former Assemblywoman Paula Boland picked up the endorsement of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Assn. (HJTA), a very solid endorsement in this district. FYI: Boland's campaign hired the Costa Mesa based Greensburgh Group to phone 5,000 voters who cast absentee ballots on a regular basis. The calls took place Feb. 4-7. Results: Boland 21.8%, Julie Korenstein 14.5%, Smith 8% & Rob Vinson 4%. Again, this was NOT a poll (cheaper than a poll) and only a canvass of 5,000 people who vote via absentee ballot...

◆ **10th District** – The L.A. Times has endorsed Madison Shockley (they endorsed him last time when he ran against Nate Holden), but most sources still think the contest for Holden's council seat boils down to Martin Ludlow, former Assemblyman Rod Wright and Holden chief deputy Deron Williams. United Firefighters of L.A. City and L.A.P.D. Command Officers Assn. went with Ludlow, as have four members of the council: Miscikowski, Reyes, Garcetti, Galanter + L.A. Controller Laura Chick. FYI: at least one private poll shows Williams in the lead, with Shockley and Ludlow trailing and Wright running 4th. This race is still a toss up. Stay tuned...

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BUDGET WARS: WHILE DAVIS PREDICTS ACCORD ON BUDGET SOON, OTHERS SAY NO SOLUTION IN SIGHT

Editor's note: Calif.'s budget impasse continues. And it's not only the current 2002-03 budget which needs to be slashed by \$12.8 billion, but the new 2003-04 budget needs to be reduced by at least \$22 billion. Gov. Gray Davis and the Democratic controlled Legislature want the reductions to be a combination of budget cuts and tax hikes, while GOPers are looking at budget cuts only. Here's our analysis & commentary...

...Don't know why Gov. Davis would predicts a breakthrough on the budget deadlock in the next 30 days, but he said that on Feb. 18th while meeting with Calif. business leaders. Given the recent statements of GOP Assembly Leader Dave Cox that his caucus was opposed to new taxes (or rolling back the VLF – car tax – to 1998 levels, thus increasing revenue by \$4 billion), it's difficult to understand why Davis is so optimistic...

...Even many of Davis' allies on the political left don't see any signs of GOP willingness to even consider tax hikes as part of the overall solution. As Sacto insider Lenny Goldberg of the CA Tax Reform Assn. told *Calpeek*, "There may be no choice but to look at the ballot box for a solution given the GOP's stand against taxes." And if there's going to be a ballot box war, the groups who favor tax hikes as part of the solution need to submit their proposals to the Secretary of State's office by the middle of March. Given the time required to qualify an initiative, turn in time would be toward the end of August to make the March 2004 Calif. primary ballot...

...As for some possible compromises over long term budget solutions in Calif., most everyone is now in agreement that Calif. should have a substantial budget reserve. Assemblyman John Campbell's ACA 6 has a reserve of at least 10%; Assemblyman Joe Canciamilla's AB 498 sets a reserve of at least 4%; and State Sen. Tom McClintock's SCA 3 has a 10% reserve. The biggest problem all these proposals have is dealing with ACA 11 (an infrastructure spending plan already set for the March 2004 ballot) and Prop. 98 – the complex education funding law...

...One plan which may not go very far is to roll over part of the State's huge deficit over a 2-year period. This is said to be part of the GOP State Senate's overall budgetary plan. Although the concept of deficit financing (like the federal govt) has some advantages, there are several CA appellate decisions (*Pooled Money Investment Board v. Unruh* – 1984, among others) which prohibit deficit budgeting ex-

cept in the case of war and not for more than \$300,000 without a Statewide vote. The problem is that Calif. has to be able to prove that it can repay the deficit and without new taxes to cover the red ink, one simply can't make the case. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2003: CITY ELECTIONS AROUND CALIF.

Editor's note: Here is *Part II* in a series of brief reports about some of the 130 different municipal elections taking place this year. Here's our analysis...

◆ *West Hollywood* – It's crunch time on Mar. 4th in the City of West Hollywood. That's because incumbent Councilmembers John Heilman, Sal Guarriello and Steve Martin are up for reelection – but also on the ballot is former Councilwoman Abbe Land. Even though she hasn't been on the council since 1997, with Land's name ID she's almost like an incumbent – and that means one of these 3 incumbents could get crunched. In addition to the 4 above, there are 5 others in the contest – some of whom have run before, such as Tom DeMille. The new and fresh face is Lauren Meister, president of the big West Hollywood West Homeowners Assn. DeMille and Meister are in the 2nd tier. The one name missing is Gail Koretz, wife of former councilman and now Assemblyman Paul Koretz(D). She dropped out days before the filing deadline. Had she run, this contest would have been totally wide open and wild...

...Heilman, Guarriello and Land have grabbed the bulk of key endorsements: ALADS, L.A. Co. Demo Central Cmt. and Stonewall Demo Club. The West Hollywood Demo Club is backing Heilman and Land. Guarriello has been endorsed by fellow Councilmembers Jeff Prang and John Duran. So where is Martin in all of this? He has sent out some mail, but isn't picking up the key endorsements. Heilman & Land are using consultant Parke Skelton and several sources think both have good/excellent shots at winning. If the previous assessment is on the mark, it means the crunch will be between Guarriello and Martin...

● *Gardena* – Back in the good old days, Gardena had 6 poker/card clubs and that was a key source of income. Now there are only two clubs in this South Bay city of about 60,000. There are two seats up on Mar. 4th and appointed Councilman Grant Nakaoka won't be running. Incumbent Councilman Paul Tanaka, chief of the Admin. Services Division of the L.A. Co. Sheriff's dept., is seeking reelection and is being supported by the Gardena POA. Also hoping to move up the political ladder is City Clerk Rachel Johnson. She's been endorsed by Tanaka. The 3rd candidate is businessman Oscar Medrano, who ran once before and is supported by Gardena Mayor Terry Terauchi

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and former Mayor Don Dear. The Political Scientists (Fred Huebscher) is running Medrano's campaign, while SG&A Campaigns is running Tanaka's campaign...

◆ **Beverly Hills** – West Hollywood's neighbor, Beverly Hills, also has a Mar. 4 election. Incumbent Councilwoman MeraLee Goldman is seeking reelection, but Les Bronte decided not to run again. Most sources believe Goldman is in a good position to win reelection. Of the remaining 5 candidates, sources say Steve Webb and Jimmy Delshad are in the top tier. In a 2nd tier are Herm Shultz, Phil Margo and Paul Bernstein. Goldman is supported for reelection by the Beverly Hills POA, BH Firemen's Assn., State Sen. Sheila Kuehl and Assemblyman Paul Koretz. She's also endorsed by Councilmembers Bronte, Tom Levyn & Mark Egerman...

CALPEEK'S INFOBAHN: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.

Editor's note: Here are a few items, political & otherwise, worth noting...

■ **Opposition to Connerly's Racial Initiative** – A coalition of many of the same groups who opposed Props. 187 and 209 have formed the ***Coalition For An Informed Calif.*** Key groups in this new coalition to fight UC Regent Ward Connerly's constitutional amendment to ban classification by race, ethnicity, color or national origin – thus making it difficult to tell whether there's been discrimination – include the ACLU, People for the American Way, MALDEF, Californians for Justice, CTA, SEIU, Asian Pacific American Legal Center, BAPAC, Lawyers Cmt. for Civic Rights and Kaiser Permanente. And *Calpeek* sources say this new coalition has hired Chicago-based media/campaign consultant David Axelrod; The Strategy Group (read that as consultant Larry Grisolan); & Elena Stern and Jay Ziegler of Burson Marsteller will do press and coalition building...

■ **Financial Privacy Bill Advances** – State Sen. Jackie Speier (D-Hillsborough) had her SB 1 approved by the Judiciary Cmt. on a 5-2 party-line vote Feb. 18th. The bill would ban banks, insurance companies and other financial institutions from selling customer info to telemarketers and others. As noted in *Calpeek*, if this bill doesn't make it to Gov. Davis' desk there will be an initiative which will be much tougher than this water-down bill...

■ **New Exit Polling Outfit** – A consortium of ABC, CBS, CNN, Fox, NBC and AP have hired Mitofsky International and Edison Media Research to form a new exit polling outfit called **National Elections Pool**. NEP replaces Voter News Service, which flopped badly in *Campaign 2000*...

CALPEEK's NEW JOBS AND PERSONNEL NOTICES.

Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook. We *still* have a ton of these announcements...

● A sad note: John Reading, 85, the former mayor of Oakland, died Feb. 7th in Indian Wells. R.I.P...

● Another sad note: Longtime San Berdu Co. Demo activist and labor leader Rudy Frances Wicker, 83, died Feb. 11th. R.I.P...

● Another sad note: Herb Brin, 87, who founded the *Heritage* newspaper chain, died Feb. 6th of heart failure. In addition to being a journalist, Brin was a poet and a leader in L.A.'s Jewish community. R.I.P...

● Another sad note: Greg Wilhelm, Director of Govt. Relations for the CA Bankers Assn., died Feb. 9th. He suffered from Lou Gehrig's disease. R.I.P...

● L.A. Council Pres. Alex Padilla has named L.A. Councilman Tom LaBonge to the L.A. Memorial Coliseum Commission...

● Attorney Diane Abbitt has moved her law office to 1851 N. Tyburn St., Glendale, CA 91204...

● Demo political fundraiser Charley Dobbs has moved to 2730 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 550, Santa Monica, CA 90403. (310)264-9200...

CALPEEK'S MARKETPLACE NETWORK

● **Pacific Northwest AIPAC** seeks political director with minimum of three years political experience. The job includes strengthening relationships between lay leaders and Representatives; encouraging people to become involved politically. Excellent benefits package. Please send resume and cover letter to sf_office@aipac.org.

● **Cerrell Associates** seeks an account executive to manage special events and other public relations accounts. Prior experience in public relations or event planning required. Fax resume attn: Steve at (323)466-8653.

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